

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In this response, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the operations of the slaves is such that independently of any signal from the master, they repeatedly switch from the standby state to the communication control state at a predetermined timing and switch to the standby state when the communication control state continues for a predetermined time period without receiving the start request signal.

It is submitted that Kumar fails to disclose such a feature and that the claimed subject matter is not anticipated by the disclosure of this reference.

The allowability of the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 is noted with appreciation. However, it is deemed premature in light of the position taken above to rewrite these claims into independent form.

New claims are added in this response. The subject matter of these claims finds full support in the originally filed claims and disclosure. These claims are patentable over the art in that they set forth subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art applied in this Office Action.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of this application is therefore courteously solicited.

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